

Camp Adams and Outdoor Ministries Team Report for Annual Gathering 2023

This team began meeting in March, so we are still quite new. Our focus to date has been to support June Boutwell, our amazing Interim Camp Manager who stepped in to enable the Conference to have a summer camp ministry after Natalie and Bob left. They left big shoes to fill and sense of “what now?” among those who have loved Camp Adams and all of the outdoor ministries of the Conference.

We developed our Ministry Description:

Camp Adams and Outdoor Ministry shall support and oversee the ministry and staff of Camp Adams, and the outdoor ministries of the conference as a whole. This ministry team will provide oversight and facilitate strategic and long range planning of outdoor ministry on behalf of the board of the Central Pacific Conference.

The questions we continue to discuss in filling out the description include:

---how best to provide education to conference churches and families

--who is missing from this team

--what skills and abilities do we need for our dream team: background in investments and fund management, financial skills, someone with background in legal field, land management, facilities or operations management, local church pastor, experience teaching...

We are looking for more people to join us in this ministry, of course. If you see yourself having any of those mentioned skills, please let the Nominations Team know.

Despite getting a very late start, June was able to find Resident Staff and camp directors to provide leadership for the camps. The summer camp program was successful for the campers. It was an exercise in learning for all involved in leadership, however. After hiring a Facilities Manager and an Assistant, who helped in preparation for the Camp programs, it became very clear within the first days of the first camp that this was not a good fit. June ended up taking on the job of running the kitchen for the entire camp season. She worked far beyond her job description, supported by some amazing volunteers who came to her aid. Without June there would not have been a camp program this summer—we are very blessed to have her. She has been clear, however, that this is an Interim position for her. Most all of the Team members actively participated in summer camp programs in some way, as well.

The team is now ready to focus on what we have learned from this summer—what is optimal staffing for Camp Adams permanent staff and summer staff? How do we recruit new directors and new resident staff? What is a just wage for staff and how do we ensure we can provide that?

Beyond that are the larger questions: How do we strategically plan for a sustainable Camp Adams program and larger Outdoor Ministries programs? What structural changes are needed at Camp Adams to enable accessibility to all who want to enjoy this amazing gift we have of

Camp Adams? How do we faithfully steward this property, sharing with other groups as well as our Conference? How do we help Conference churches take responsibility for this gift that we all share? There are serious financial and infrastructure issues to be faced in the years ahead. Our hope is to create a plan that can be carried out for years to come, so that our children and grandchildren, as well as our parents and friends (and strangers who become friends) can continue to find spiritual renewal and build new relationships in the beauty of Camp Adams.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Zaworski, co-chair